

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 26th October 1901.

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II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2570. The Belghoria correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* reports that on the 10th instant a daring dacoity was committed at

A dacoity.

Ariadaha, a village near Belghoria, when forty

dacoits entered a house, brutally assaulted the inmates and decamped with cash and valuables to the extent of Rs. 4,000. As more than a dozen such dacoities have been perpetrated in the course of this year in this locality, the writer appeals to Government to increase the police force to meet the recrudescence of this form of crime.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Oct. 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2571. *Power and Guardian* ridicules the judgment of two Honorary

Two Honorary Magistrates of
Alipore.

Magistrates of Alipore, convicting two men to fines and imprisonment for what the District Magistrate in his appellate jurisdiction described as an indulgence in ordinary abuse under grave provocation, and is glad that the "two Daniels" have received a well-merited snubbing from Mr. Lyall, the District Magistrate, 24-Parganas.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
15th Oct. 1901.

2572. The following is taken from the letter of the Tangail correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :—
The Tangail Criminal Court.

Complaints on account of the indifference of the local authorities to public convenience have been reaching me since some time past. Matters have come to such a pass that the higher authorities should take immediate note of them and take steps to remove the complaints. I note below some of these :—

In a big subdivision like Tangail, the issuing of court-fees only twice a week cannot meet general demand. The consequence is that people in need of an eight-anna court-fee sometimes have to use one of a rupee worth for the expedition of his work. I regret I cannot but characterize it as a *zulum*.

The Sub-Deputy Magistrate often attends the Court late. I was present one day at the Mukhtear's Library ; it was about 2 P.M., and some of my friends told me that till then the Sub-Deputy did not come to the Court. The immediate consequence of such a practice is that his worship has to sit at Court till late at night. About a week or ten days ago, one day at 11 P.M., one Maniruddi Munshi and three others were convicted and sentenced under section 343, Indian Penal Code, to a fine of Rs. 50 each. It being late at night, no vendor was available, and so an application on a piece of common paper, without any court-fees attached to it, was filed for standing surety. A week's time was granted, but on the next day distress warrant was issued and lodged with the police for the realization of fines by selling immovable property.

Such are some of the extraordinary proceedings of our law courts. We hope Mr. A. K. Chatterjee, our Subdivisional Officer, will set matters right.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Oct. 1901.

2573. The *Bengalee* expresses discontentment at the action of the English Committee of the High Court in the following cases :—
The Provincial Judicial Service.

The Munsif of Diamond Harbour lately applied to the Judge of the 24-Parganas for permission to leave his station on a Sunday, and before learning the result of his application left the station. He was reported to the High Court, was censured by the latter and transferred to Chittagong. "A simple reprimand would have been quite enough, but the English Committee would not be satisfied with it. Judges who in their executive capacity can pass an order, so harsh and severe, must not be surprised if they occasionally find their judicial decisions challenged as unsound."

The second complaint against the proceedings of the English Committee is that, instead of a first or second grade Sub-Judge being selected for promotion to the Judgeship of the Small Cause Court, Sealdah, a third grade man has been appointed, thus giving rise to grave dissatisfaction in the Service, which must seriously interfere with its efficiency. "The English Committee cannot ignore it. When merit and seniority are overlooked, when excessive

BENGALEE,
17th Oct. 1901.

punishments are inflicted for trivial faults, all incentive for devoted work is gone. What is more, the self-respect of the Service is jeopardised. Self-respecting men, who are the best of men, will not care to join a Service where they are exposed to capricious punishments and where the claims of seniority and merit are overlooked."

(d)—*Education.*

EAST,
12th Oct. 1901.

2574. The *East* understands that Mr. Mondy, of the Dacca College, is about to retire, and that Mr. Hallward, the Professor of English of the same institution, is to be transferred to the Presidency College, Calcutta, which has already got the best Professors of the Indian Educational Service, while it is intended to post Mr. Hari Nath Dey, who has just entered the Service, to the Dacca College. This will have the effect of placing the Dacca College, like the Rajshahi and Krishnagar Colleges, under the Principalships of Indians, although there is a standing order that the Dacca and Patna Colleges must have two European Professors. If the change is effected now, it is feared that it will tell upon the results of the ensuing B.A. and M.A. examinations, on which account it is suggested that Mr. Hallward should be detained till those examinations are held. The journal regrets that Mr. Pedler, who has already become notorious for curtailing the educational expenditure to the great detriment of efficiency, does not consider the palpable mistakes he so often commits in ordering transfers of professors and teachers.

BENGALEE,
20th Oct. 1901.

2575. In connection with the enquiry set on foot into the large percentage of failures at the B.A., examinations, the *Bengalee*, while constrained to say that the students themselves are partly responsible for the failures, protests against the multiplicity of books, especially in English, which the students are required to read, but which they run through at railway speed, forgetting them soon after the examination is over. It begs the Committee of Enquiry to consider this question and all the evils which flow from it, and to provide that the reading of the text-books shall be a pleasure and not a burden to the students.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BENGALEE,
17th Oct. 1901.

2576. The *Bengalee* learns that it is in contemplation to appoint a Secretary to the Hooghly Municipality on Rs. 125 to Rs. 175 for the purpose of supervising outdoor work. It questions the necessity of appointing such an officer; but if the Commissioners have made up their mind to do so, the *Bengalee* trusts that the experiment will be tried tentatively before a permanent addition is made to the expenditure side of the budget.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Oct. 1901.

2577. A correspondent from Midnapore writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the existence of a "serious" difference between the Chairman of the Local Board and some of the members, on the subject of the introduction in *patsalas* of a new text-book named "Prabandha Ratna" in place of the book entitled "Charu Sikha" which has been in use for the past seven years. The Chairman, in opposition to the wishes of the majority of the members, having stopped the introduction of the new book, the correspondent hopes that the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division will modify the order and permit students to be examined in either book.

BENGALEE,
20th Oct. 1901.

2578. Noticing the resistance that the people of Agra are making to the imposition of the water-rate by the Municipal Board, the *Bengalee* hopes that Sir Antony MacDonnell will, as a last act of administrative charity, withdraw or reduce the water-tax of Agra.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Oct. 1901.

The North-Western Provinces
Land Revenue Bill.

2579. The *Indian Mirror* intimates that the zamindars of the United Provinces, whose people are generally an easy-going lot, not given to public agitation, have banded themselves into an Association for the defence of

their threatened rights in the matter of the Land Revenue Bill which was introduced at the last meeting of the North-Western Provinces Legislative Council. This measure, like the Punjab Land Alienation Act, the Bombay Land Revenue Act, and the Madras Court of Wards' Bill, is characterised as the outcome of the same policy of repressive land legislation which at the present moment rules the counsels of the powers that be in India.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

2580. The *Bengalee* publishes the reply of the Agent, East Indian Railway, to a Hindu gentleman, declining his application to open refreshment-rooms in the Hindu style at railway stations on the East Indian Railway, and remarks: "Our only hope is in the vigorous initiative of the Viceroy. The Railway Administrations will do nothing except under pressure from the Government."

2581. The *Bengalee* desires to call attention to the manner in which third class passengers, who avail themselves of the through trains at Howrah, are huddled together at the outer platform until five minutes before the train starts, when they are allowed into the inner platform through a narrow gate, after considerable pushing, jostling and shouting. It suggests that some three or four extra passages should be provided, or the existing passage widened.

(h)—*General.*

2582. Passing from the consideration of the injustice of importing Barristers from England for Judgeships in Indian High Courts, when local materials, in no way inferior, are available, the *Hindu Patriot* points out that there are other appointments, like those of the Governorships of Bombay and Madras and Finance and Legal Members of the Imperial Council, which might well be filled in this country. They have been so filled before, and there is no reason why the Governorships should not be thrown open to Lieutenant-Governors, the post of Finance Minister to members of the Indian Civil Service, and that of the Law Member to the Calcutta Bar.

2583. *Power and Guardian* complains that, despite all the rules and regulations promulgated by Government to keep British soldiers within bounds and maintain proper discipline over them, they are reported to be acting at Barrackpore in such a disgraceful manner that the Commissioner of the Presidency Division has been constrained to report that their conduct has caused an uneasy feeling among the native community.

The writer exhorts His Excellency the Viceroy to take timely steps to put a stop to the present unbridled license of British soldiers in India.

2584. According to the same journal, the case of Mr. Pennell proves two very important points—the "faults of the unholly combination of executive and judicial powers, and the way India is practically ruled by her present masters."

Although it finds fault with many of Mr. Pennell's utterances and actions, it nevertheless remarks that his dismissal is sure to prove a blessing to Bengal, if not to the 300 millions of Indians, and it hopes that Mr. Pennell will live long to the lasting benefit of the community for whom he dared and suffered so much. It remarks, in conclusion, that it does not think Government has been discreet and judicious in dismissing Mr. Pennell, but it has carried its animosity to the bitter end.

2585. The *Bengalee* cites some cases, reported by a correspondent from Barisal, to show the risk and danger arising from the disarmament of the entire population who are left to the mercy of leopards, and asks that either a limited number of passes be issued to respectable people, or that a body of armed Reserve Police be detailed for the protection of the people. "The protection of life is the first and the most sacred duty of the Government, and a Government which fails to protect life fails in the discharge of its most elementary duty."

Hindu refreshment-rooms on the East Indian Railway.

BENGALEE,
18th Oct. 1901.

BENGALEE,
17th Oct. 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
14th Oct. 1901.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
15th Oct. 1901.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
15th Oct. 1901.

BENGALEE
16th Oct. 1901.

BENGALEE,
16th Oct. 1901.

2586. The *Bengalee* enters into a lengthy account of the salt monopoly and the salt tax from its earliest history to date, concluding with the following request:—“We

The salt tax.

have, of late, heard a great deal about the financial prosperity of India, though we have seen precious little evidence in support of such a comfortable assurance. We may, therefore, be pardoned if we venture to enquire what has become of those reiterated promises for the reduction of the salt tax,— promises the fulfilment of which will benefit millions of the poorest whom the reduction or even the abolition of no other tax would benefit in the least.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Oct. 1901.

The value of Mr. Pennell's
defence.

2587. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regards Mr. Pennell's defence as alike valuable to the rulers and the ruled, as a testimony of the inward rottenness of the administration. What is necessary is to put before our rulers the

evidence given by Mr. Pennell, explain its significance, and demand redress in the criminal administration of the country.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Oct. 1901.

2588. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* learns that the authorities at Silchar, in endeavouring to find out the person who divulged to the newspapers copies of the letter of the Manager of the Hattichera Tea Estate to the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent's letter of instructions to his Sub-Inspector in the Hattichera riot case, have laid the blame upon a clerk of the Deputy Commissioner's office, and it is feared that this man will be made a victim of the conspiracy and sacrificed to appease the anger of the officials. The *Patrika* sincerely hopes that Mr. Cotton and even His Excellency the Viceroy will intervene and save the poor clerk, who is less to blame, for supplying the press with information than the officials who “cut such a sorry figure and made a football of law and procedure.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Oct. 1901.

Mr. Muddiman, Officiating Dis-
trict Magistrate, Saran.

2589. The Chapra correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that the present District Magistrate of Saran, Mr. Muddiman, is an officer of scarcely four years' service, and that as the post is an officiating one, he asks why Government did not appoint an experienced Indian Deputy Magistrate of Arrah.

He mentions that Mr. Muddiman has issued an order against umbrellas and sticks being brought into his *ijlas* room, and asks that the District Magistrate will make some arrangements that suitors and others do not lose umbrellas, &c., when these are left outside the Court room.

BENGALEE,
17th Oct. 1901.

The Bengal Secretariat Press.

2590. After a silence of six months, the *Bengalee* returns to the subject of the “vagaries” of the Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, who, it alleges, being freed from the restraint exercised by the Hon'ble Mr. Baker, now “seeks to rule in a dictatorial fashion and tries to show that he is above all rule and control.” Specific cases are given of Mr. Chalmers' severity in the treatment of his subordinates. Firstly, he has extended the hours of work from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M., when they were formerly 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. Secondly, he has inaugurated an era of heavy fines. Thirdly, late-comers are shut out of office and kept waiting till 9-30 A.M., when the gates are again opened. Fourthly, he has discontinued the practice of closing the office at 4 P.M. on Saturdays, which formerly enabled mufassal employés to visit their homes; and, lastly, the reliance he places on distributors is another source of serious hardship with the compositors, whom the former, not being always scrupulous men, can easily bring to grief.

BENGALEE,
18th Oct. 1901.

Steeping jute in rivers and
tanks.

and other fell diseases.

It hopes the Government will issue an authoritative circular prohibiting the practice and urging the local authorities to take prompt steps before it is too late.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Oct. 1901.

Mr. Pennell's appeal.

2592. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* condemns the manner in which Mr. Pennell has vilified His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Mr. Cargill in his appeal, and refuses

to believe the allegations that have been made against the Magistrate of Noakhali, until evidence is adduced to substantiate them. Nor does it find any justification for the way in which Mr. Pennell has dragged into the controversy the names of such persons as Mr. Justice Ghose, Mr. Justice Gupta, Mr. P. L. Roy and others.

2593. Speaking of the good results obtained in the Indore and Gondal States by timely and liberal tuccavi advances, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* impresses on the Government that these advances constitute the surest, easiest and most economical way of dealing with an impending famine.

It, however, takes occasion to inweigh against the over-assessment of the land which is the cause of famines, the heavy sum that India is required to remit to England annually, the costly rule of the country, and the expensive army which it is required to maintain.

2594. Writing on the subject of the proposed Court for Indian appeals, the *Indian Nation* suggests that some Native Indian experts in Hindu and Muhammadan law should be appointed. But if the Home Government is not disposed to go so far, though it is high time that the experiment should be tried, the appointment of Englishmen with knowledge of the Hindu and Muhammadan law and intimate experience of the country would be the better alternative.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

2595. The *Bengalee*, referring to the statement that the late Maharaja of Patiala squandered ten crores of rupees in less than ten years, bequeathing heavy debts to his unfortunate principality, which will now have to be paid, hopes that the fate of that State will be a warning to Anglicised Princes who looked up to the late Maharaja as their model. "A ruler of this type cannot fail to be a curse to his subjects who have to find money for his reckless extravagance. A paternal Government such as ours is supposed to be should not have allowed the Maharaja to go on in the manner he had been doing." The cause of the late Chief's extravagance is attributed to European adventurers who made Patiala their happy hunting ground and helped the Chief in emptying his treasury in enriching themselves.

"It is very much to be wished," concludes the journal "that the Government of India should issue strict orders prohibiting the employment of Europeans in the Native States unless under very exceptional circumstances. But then these adventurers generally secure comfortable posts on the Chief's personal staff, and are, therefore, removeable only at the will or pleasure of their employer. If, however, the Foreign Office and the Political Officers exercise some vigilance in regard to this matter, the evil may be minimised, if not eradicated altogether."

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2596. Pandit Rakhal Das Tewari Nayaratna, Pleader of Diamond Harbour, writes a lengthy letter to the *Indian Mirror*, reporting the existence of scarcity in the Diamond Harbour subdivision, and appealing to the Government, the Brahmo Samaj and millionaires to help in the removal of the people's sufferings.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2597. There was a time, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, when officials and non-officials rose to eminence by showing an interest in public affairs and by joining Political Associations. All this has since changed, and Government servants are directly and zamindars, &c., are indirectly prevented from identifying themselves with any political agitation. In view of this state of things, the journal belauds the friendly attitude of Mr. Rankin, Magistrate of Dacca, which is just what it should be towards the newly-resuscitated "Dacca People's Association;" and enquires whether it would not be

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Oct. 1901.

INDIAN NATION,
21st Oct. 1901.

BENGALEE,
17th Oct. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Oct. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Oct. 1901.

possible to elect Mr Rankin as its President. In this way, peace and harmony might be introduced between the rulers and the ruled, and if Lord Curzon, or one of the Provincial Governors, generously undertook to preside over the meetings of the Congress, they would gain immensely in popularity.

In conclusion, the writer suggests the formation of an association in each district in India. Indeed, if the Congress is to be maintained in a state of efficiency, these District Associations must be re-established all over the country and the nucleus for a really living and progressive national organization founded.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 26th October 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.